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APROPOS of argentaurum, Dr. Emmens and Newton W. Emmens publish in the *Chemical News* a short article on 'Migrant Matter,' describing an experiment in which a disc of pure lead connected with a disc of pure silver by a copper spiral was kept in a wide-mouthed bottle for twelve weeks. At the end of this period the lead disc on cupellation is said to have given a silver bead weighing 0.00003 gram. "It would appear from this experiment that what is commonly recognized as solid silver is, in part at least, a migrant mode of matter \* \* \*. We use the term 'migrant matter' because the traveling particles to which we refer are (in common with odors generally) much more akin to Crookes's 'fourth form' than to gases."

J. L. H.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

##### THE INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CONGRESS.

THE New York *Medical Record*, with great enterprise, secured by cable a report, extending to a number of pages, of the Twelfth International Medical Congress, which opened at Moscow on August 19th. After the Congress had been opened by the Grand Duke Sergius and welcomed by the Minister of Public Instruction, Hospodin Dyljanov, Professor Sklifosovsky, the President of the Committee of Organization, made an address in which he dwelt especially on the relations of Russia to the rest of Europe in regard to medical and scientific work. He said that one great obstacle to medical progress was the want of a common medium of communication between the men of science of different nationalities. Nowhere was this almost fatal lack so fully realized as in Russia. The great mass of Russian medical literature was a sealed book to Western peoples, and few outside of the country had any conception of the enormous amount of scientific work that was being done there. Russians recognized that their language was too difficult ever to become universally known, and they were therefore the more keenly alive to the necessity of the adoption of some international speech. He would suggest

the appointment of a committee to draft a preliminary agreement on the subject, which should be laid before the next congress for consideration. The General Secretary, Professor Roth, reported an attendance of 7,300 members in Moscow. Of this number more than 3,500 were from Russia, 800 from Germany, as many from Austria, 400 from France, 300 from Italy, 300 from England, 120 from the United States, 30 from Mexico, 10 from Japan and 4 from China. Prince Gallitzin, the Mayor of Moscow, then greeted the members of the Congress on behalf of the municipality and announced that the city of Moscow had decided to establish a prize of 5,000 francs, to be awarded at each international congress, to the person who in the interval since the preceding congress shall have done that medical work which shall be deemed of the greatest benefit to humanity. Addresses were then made by the national delegates, and the honorary presidents were announced as follows: Germany—Virchow, Leyden, Ziemssen and Waldeyer; Austria—Gussenbauer, Hlawka and Rudiger; Great Britain—Stokes, MacCormac and Simpson; United States—Senn and Thayer (Billings, it was announced, would have been one of this number had he not been absent); Spain—Robert; France—Lannelongue, Le Dentu, Grasset and Pinard; Italy—D'Antona, Bottini and Lombroso.

General addresses were given by Professor Virchow on the continuity of life; by Professor Lannelongue on the sclerogenic treatment of surgical tuberculosis; by Dr. T. Lauder Brunton on the relationship of physiology, pharmacology, pathology and practical medicine; by Professor von Krafft-Ebing on etiology of progressive general paralysis; by Dr. Senn on classification and surgical treatment of acute peritonitis; by Dr. Metchnikoff on the plague, and by Dr. Robert on the mutual relations of pathology and therapeutics.

The next international congress will be held at Paris in the summer of 1900, with Professor Lannelongue as President of the Committee of Organization.

##### THE SEAL FISHERIES.

DR. DAVID STARR JORDAN, Commissioner-in-chief of the fur seal investigations for the United

States, with Mr. George Clark, Secretary of the Committee, arrived at San Francisco on the 25th. Mr. Macoun, the Canadian Commissioner, had already left the Pribyloff Islands, and the British Commissioner, Professor Thompson, was about to leave on H. M. S. 'Amphion.' Mr. Lucas, of the United States Commission, remained behind for a week. President Jordan is reported in a press dispatch to have said that the breeding grounds showed a shrinkage of about 15 per cent. over the conditions of last season, and the hunting grounds a shrinkage of 33 per cent. This is about what was predicted by the American Commission last year. The primary cause of the shrinkage of females on the breeding grounds is the pelagic catch of last fall and this spring. To this is added the loss due to starvation of orphaned pups in 1894, which should this year have lived to give birth to their first pups. This starvation in 1894, affecting, as it did, in a like measure the male herd, is the cause of the diminution of the killable seals on the hunting grounds. The decline of the herd is everywhere more distinctly marked than it was last year, owing to the effects of the resumption of pelagic killing in Bering Sea after the *modus vivendi* of 1893. For 1898 the shrinkage will be still greater, through the destruction, in 1894, of unborn pups with females killed. Branding of young female seals, which will be begun after September 1st, will be carried on by Colonel Murray, chief agent on the islands, and E. F. Farmer, electrician. The skins of the branded cows which returned this year to the islands show clearly the permanency of the mark and its efficiency to render the skins unsalable, without injury to the animal or to the herd.

THE London *Times* has published a letter two and a-half columns in length from Mr. Herman Liebes, one of the lessees of the Prybiloff Islands seal rookeries, in which he presents the case for the United States in a temperate and reasonable manner, much more likely to prove convincing than the recently published letter of Secretary Sherman. The communication should make it clear to the ordinary reader that the decrease of the herd is not due to the loss of the seals killed on land, which are only young

bachelors not serving harems, but to pelagic sealing, where at least 80 per cent. of those killed are females which are both pregnant and leave young to die of starvation on the islands. Since 1890 the annual catch of seals by the pelagic sealers amounts to an average of 88,916, as compared with an average of 15,770 from the islands.

#### THE MISSOURI GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

THE following editorial comment appears in the *Journal of Geology*:

"The State of Missouri has recently had deep disgrace thrust upon it by the removal of the efficient director of the Geological Survey, and by the appointment of men to its care and conduct who possess, according to information that we deem trustworthy, not only no competency to perform their duties, but not even a plausible semblance of competency. These appointments have apparently no other motive than the conferring of personal or political favors. No causes of complaint, we are informed, were even alleged against the previous conduct of the Survey, or against the officials in charge of it. The scientific public has had ample demonstration of the vigor and energy with which the Survey has been prosecuted, the promptness with which its results have been published, and the adaptation of the work to the development of the economic as well as the scientific resources of the State. It appears, therefore, that the moneys appropriated by the State of Missouri for the laudable purpose of investigating and advertising its resources, and of informing its people concerning their own sources of material and intellectual wealth, are being virtually diverted from the purposes specifically indicated by the statutes of the State, and are being used for the personal and political interests of the Governor and his friends in the form of payment for worthless services. We are not sufficiently informed in the technicalities of law and the processes of the Courts to know how legal action in a case of this kind can be instituted and maintained, but if the appointees are as obviously incompetent as information indicates, they are simply consuming the funds of the State to no purpose save their own, and we think that an effort

should be made to procure a formal declaration by the Courts whether this is not a virtual embezzlement, and, if so, to secure the award of the proper punishment. If there is now no way of compelling a Governor to respect the laws of a State and the purposes of its statutes, a way should be provided."

## GENERAL.

THE International Mathematical Congress, which closed its meetings at Zurich on August 11th, decided that its next meeting be held in Paris in 1900. A committee of five members was appointed to report on mathematical progress in different countries and to promote the establishment of mathematical departments in academic and other libraries. A resolution was passed favoring the institution of a central correspondence bureau in order to maintain closer relations between teachers and students of the higher mathematics in different countries.

THE attendance at the recent meeting of the French Association for the Advancement of Science at Saint-Etienne was smaller this year than usual, amounting to scarcely 400.

PRINCE LUIGI, of Savoy, and his party succeeded in reaching the summit of Mt. St. Elias at noon on July 31st. The altitude was determined to be 18,120 feet; no indications of volcanic action were found. It is said that the expedition under Mr. Bryant reached an altitude of 14,500 feet—the height reached by Professor Russell in 1891—and was compelled to return owing to illness.

It will be remembered that Congress appropriated \$5,000 for a continuation of the survey of the gold resources of Alaska, but the bill containing this item was passed too late to make it available this year. The expedition under Mr. J. E. Spurr will go next year, and it is proposed to ask for an increase of the appropriation to \$25,000 in order that a complete survey may be made and a geological map of the region prepared.

PROFESSOR CORFIELD has been elected an honorary member of the Royal Society of Public Health of Belgium, of which he has been a corresponding member for some years.

PROFESSOR BELAJEFF has been appointed director of the Botanical Gardens in Warsaw.

IN addition to the degrees conferred on Lord Kelvin, Lord Lister and Sir John Evans by the two universities located at Toronto, McGill University will this week confer on them the doctorate of laws. The convocation of McGill University will be held in recognition of the meeting of the British Medical Association and will confer the degree on Dr. L. L. Barnes, President of the Association, and probably on others in attendance.

A SPECIAL number of the *Rendiconti della R. Accademia dei Lincei* announces, says *Nature*, the award of the following prizes, besides others for essays of a literary character: The royal prize for physics to Professor Adolfo Bartoli, of Padua, for his two monographs on the specific heat of water between the temperatures of 0° and 35°, and on the heat of the sun and for other investigations. For the ministerial prize for physical and chemical science eight competitors entered, and the judges have awarded a prize of 1,000 lire to Professor Carlo Bonacini, of Modena, for his essays on orthochromatic and color photography, and on the reflection and other properties of Röntgen rays; also awards of 250 lire each to Professor Carlo Cattaneo, of Turin, for his notes on the conductivity of electrolytes and on the velocity of ions, and to Professor Pietro Bartolotti for chemical investigations relating to the compound Rottlerine and other derivatives.

WE learn, with much regret, of the death of Professor J. E. Humphrey, which occurred about the middle of August at Jamaica, where he had charge of a biological expedition from the Johns Hopkins University. Professor Humphrey was a graduate of Harvard University and was a young man, having been promoted only last year to an associate professorship of botany at Johns Hopkins University. He had made important contributions to our knowledge of the algæ and in other directions, and was building up a strong department of botany in the Johns Hopkins University.

WE regret also to announce the death, at the early age of 23 years, of Mr. Joseph G. C. Cot-

tier, fellow of Columbia University. Mr. Cottier had been traveling in France since the first of July, and died from typhoid fever at Paris on the 17th of August. He was a student of exceptional ability in the mathematico-physical sciences and gave promise of a brilliant career.

THE deaths are also announced of Mr. Albert Marth, fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and the author of many valuable contributions to astronomy, at the age of 69, and of Mr. S. E. Peal, of Assam, a writer on astronomical topics.

A CABLEGRAM to the daily press reports that the British steamer *Windward*, which left England on June 10th last, for Franz Josef Land, to bring back from the Arctic regions the members of the Jackson-Harmsworth expedition, who have spent three winters near Cape Flora, passed Aberdeen on Aug. 28th on her return trip and signalled that all were well on board. During the present summer the expedition was to make an attempt to reach the highest point north through an opening in Queen Victoria's Sea, the open water discovered by Jackson.

REUTER'S agency announces that M. Nossiloff, the explorer, has arrived at Tiumen from the Kara Sea. He has made important discoveries connected with intercourse between Siberia and Europe, especially a direct waterway which is considerably shorter than the old one and is not affected by the sea ice. M. Nossiloff also announces that he has investigated the hitherto unexplored Yalmal peninsula.

PROFESSOR W. W. CAMPBELL will have charge of the expedition of the Lick Observatory to India to observe the total eclipse of the sun on January 21st of next year. As we have already stated, this expedition has been made possible through the generosity of the late Col. C. F. Crocker.

THE *Boston Transcript* states that Mr. Edward Kemeys, the animal sculptor, will probably receive a commission for the decoration of the zoological park in Washington. It is proposed to decorate the park with bronze figures of Indians and wild animals, of life size or a little larger, to preserve the types of animal life which are rapidly vanishing. The Indians will be represented in some pieces as alone and in some pieces as riding or hunting the animals.

The animals will sometimes be separate and sometimes grouped together, as in the case of a leopard killing a deer.

It is reported that as soon as the new library of the Moscow University is completed, the well-known savant, Dr. Luginin, has promised to make it a present of his fine collection of books on chemistry, embracing 12,000 volumes, besides adding a sum of money for purchasing new books on that subject.

THE annual meeting of the corporation of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Holl was held at that place on August 26th. The chief business was the election of a board of trustees and the enactment of some changes in the by-laws. Seventy members were in attendance. A resolution was adopted ratifying certain changes in the constitution proposed at a special meeting in Boston on August 16th. Among the more important amendments adopted were those providing that the number of trustees be increased from twenty to twenty-four, and that ex-officio members be made members of the board of trustees. Trustees were elected as follows: Clerk, Professor H. C. Bumpus, Brown University; Dr. E. G. Gardiner, Professor Clark, Williams College; Dr. J. P. McMurrich and L. L. Nunn, University of Michigan; Professor H. F. Osborn and Professor E. B. Wilson, Columbia; Professor William Libbey and W. B. Scott, Princeton; Professor W. C. Sedgwick, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Professor Sydney W. Smith, Yale; Dr. William Trelease, Missouri Botanical Gardens; Professor W. P. Wilson, Philadelphia Museum; Professor B. Ramsey Wright, University of Toronto; Professor J. M. McFarlane and E. G. Conklin, University of Pennsylvania; Professor E. P. Mall, Johns Hopkins University; Professor E. L. Mark, Harvard; Samuel P. Scudder, Cambridge; Lawrence Minot, Boston; Professor T. H. Morgan, Bryn Mawr; C. G. Kidder, New York; Professor M. M. Metcalf, the Woman's College of Baltimore; Professor William Patten, Dartmouth; Professor D. P. Penhallow, McGill University.

*Nature* learns from the *Brisbane Courier* that Hon. R. Barr-Smith, of Torrens Park, South Australia, has offered to subscribe the amount

necessary for the establishment of a tentative meteorological station at the summit of Mount Kosciusko, in the southeastern extremity of Australia, at a height of about 8,000 feet. Mr. Wragge hopes that the comparison of the results with those obtained from low-level stations will insure a permanent observatory being established in the interest of Australasia.

M. JANSSEN was expected, says the Paris correspondent of the London *Times*, to leave Paris on August 21st to inspect his Mont Blanc observatory. The scientific caravan will start from Chamonix at the beginning of September to take meteorological readings at an altitude of 14,000 feet, the highest station in the world, and to study solar radiation. M. Perrotin, director of the Nice observatory, will, it is said, join the party in order to study the morning elongation of Venus and to ascertain the period of the planet's rotation. Foreign men of science wishing to make the ascent will enjoy the hospitality of the establishment.

At the monthly general meeting of the Zoological Society of London, held on August 19th, at their offices in Hanover-square, it was stated that the number of additions to the Society's menagerie during the month of July had been 102, among which special attention was called to a young pair of Babirussas (*Babirussa al-furus*), from Celebes, presented by the Duke of Bedford; to an example of the thick-billed penguin (*Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*), from Stewart Island, New Zealand, deposited by the Hon. Walter Rothschild; and also to a very large example of Daudin's tortoise (*Testudo daudini*), deposited by the same gentleman. The President delivered the silver medal of the Society to Mr. Alexander Whyte, F.Z.S., in acknowledgment of the valuable services he had rendered to zoological science by the large collections he had made in every branch of natural history in British Central Africa, while acting as chief scientific officer to Sir Harry Johnston.

THE second International Conference on Railway and Marine Hygiene will, as we have already announced, meet at Brussels on September 6th, 7th and 8th. Several governments and societies have appointed official delegates, and numerous papers have been promised. There

will be three sections: (1) Organization of the Medical Services; (2) Guarantees of Personal Fitness; (3) Hygienic Rules and Regulations. The officials and medical officers of foreign railway companies can obtain free passes upon the Belgian state railways. Dr. J. De Lantsheere, 56, Rue de l'Association, Brussels, will supply further information.

THE British Pharmaceutical Conference, which has recently concluded its sessions at Glasgow, will next year meet at Belfast, Dr. Symes, of Liverpool, being reelected President. One of the more interesting papers presented to the Conference was by Professor Atkinson, of London, showing that the people of Great Britain expend annually £3,000,000 on patent medicine. In 1872 the annual revenue from patent medicine stamps was £82,000; ten years later that amount was doubled, and in 1892 the tax produced £240,000. He thought that the government should exercise more control over the sale of these secret nostrums.

THE *Progrès médicale* publishes a somewhat extended account of the International Bibliographical Conference which met in Brussels on August 2d, 3d and 4th. A special discussion took place on the Dewey decimal system of classification, which was opposed by M. Funk-Brentano and defended by M. Baudouin and others. Dr. Haviland Field announced that the delayed *Concilium bibliographicum* for zoology would soon begin the issue of cards. M. Baudouin stated that within three years nearly 200,000 bibliographical cards with analyses, relating especially to the biological sciences, had been prepared for the Paris Institute of Bibliography.

MR. MOSES P. HANDY, special commissioner to the Paris exhibition of 1900, has gone to Paris to make arrangements for the space and location of exhibits from the United States. He is reported to have said before leaving that he thought 500,000 square feet of space would be required by American exhibitors, or more than four times as much as was in the exposition in 1889. The exhibits in electrical and railway appliances are expected to be especially complete. A thorough educational exhibit will also be prepared.

THE exhibition now open at Brussels contains a feature of interest to anthropologists. Two hundred natives of the Congo tribes have been brought from Africa and are exhibited in a replica of a Congolese village. The greater number are Batatelas, but other tribes are represented, including two of the forest dwarfs described by Stanley.

THE first number of the *Zoological Bulletin*, edited by Professors C. O. Whitman and W. M. Wheeler, of the University of Chicago, has now been published by Ginn & Co. The title page gives the names of seventy-three American students of the zoological sciences who have given their cooperation. This number contains articles by Edward Phelps Allis, Jr., on 'The Morphology of the Petrosal Bone and of the Sphenoidal Region of the Skull of *Amia Calva*;' by Charles W. Hargitt on 'Recent Experiments on Regeneration;' by Charles Lawrence Bristol on 'The Metamerism of *Nepheleis*;' and by G. Baur 'On the Question of Intercalation of *Vertebræ*.' The number extends to fifty-three pages and it is expected to publish at least six numbers of this size yearly. The *Bulletin* has the same form and size of page as the *Journal of Morphology*, and will apparently differ from that journal only in that the articles will be as a rule shorter and not illustrated.

A QUARTERLY botanical journal, entitled *Bollettino del Reale Orto Botanico di Palermo*, will hereafter be published, under the editorship of Professor Borzi.

HENRY HOLT & Co. announce for early publication 'The Elements of Comparative Zoology,' by Professor J. Sterling Kingsley, of Tufts College; 'Laboratory Directions in General Biology,' by Harriet Randolph, instructor in Bryn Mawr College; an 'Outline Introductory to Kant's Critique of Pure Reason,' by Professor R. M. Wenley, of the University of Michigan, and a new and much enlarged edition of Hall and Bergen's 'Text-Book of Physics.'

WE are glad to note the full reports in the American daily press of the recent meeting of the British Association at Toronto, even though some of these papers did not mention the meeting at Detroit. We hope that all the papers

will remember next year that there is an American Association for the Advancement of Science.

THE fourth International Scientific Congress of Catholics opened its sessions at Freiburg, Switzerland, on the 15th of August. Mgr. Dernaz, Bishop of Lausanne and Geneva, was the president of honor, and Baron Hertling, professor of philosophy in the University of Munich, was made president of the Congress. The Congress met in ten sections, and there were 500 members in attendance.

THE *Engineering News* Publishing Company have republished three articles on the floods of the Mississippi River contributed to the journal in the course of the past two years by Mr. William Starling, Chief Engineer of the Lower Yazoo Levee District. The articles describe the levees of the Mississippi river and the floods, especially that of 1897, and should prove useful in disseminating knowledge of the cause of the floods and the proper means to be used in combatting their ravages.

THE *Electrical World* reports a paper by M. Pierard describing an application of the phonograph in Spain. It appears that the telephone is there used in place of the telegraph, and it was found that the speed of transmission was greatly limited by the operators at the receiving end, who could not transcribe the messages sufficiently rapidly; at present the receiving operator repeats the message into a phonograph, from which it is then transcribed; this repetition is also heard at the transmitting end and therefore serves as a control for the correctness of the received message; the speed is 86 words per minute, which means double this amount if the return message is included. It is thought that this is the first time the phonograph has been put to this use.

A BRITISH Parliamentary paper has been issued given a report of the efforts to check the locusts in Cyprus during the past year. The High Commissioner, Sir W. J. Sendall, states that the system of purchasing eggs and living locusts, which has now been pursued for four years, has appreciably diminished the number of locusts.

THE first quarterly report, says the New

York *Medical Record*, since the appointment of medical inspectors of schools in this city has been made by Dr. Blauvelt, the chief medical inspector. The report includes a table showing the different kinds of diseases for which children were excluded from the schools. Parasitic diseases of the head appear to have been the most prevalent, 2,627 cases having been discovered among the children examined. Contagious diseases of the eye come next on the list, over 700 cases being reported. Skin diseases claimed 175 victims, and diphtheria 91. Measles was responsible for the exclusion from school of 51 children, and 20 cases of genuine scarlet fever were discovered. Croup was of comparatively rare occurrence, but 26 scholars were compelled to forego school attendance for a short time on account of whooping-cough. The report gives the number suffering from mumps as 117, and from chicken-pox as 93.

It appears from an article in *Machinery* that the Stockholm Exhibition, which has attracted but little attention in the daily press, is of considerable scientific interest. The exhibition grounds cover an area of about 220,000 square yards—a space which is about doubled if the mountain plateau, which is given up to a realistic reproduction of Swedish country life from the Laplander's hut to the thriving farmer's homestead, with all the fauna and flora of the country, is added to it. The most imposing building in the grounds is the Industrial Hall, which is said to be the largest wooden structure in the world, a forest of about 34,000 trees having been used up in its elevation. The exhibits in this building are selections from the ordinary products of the industries of Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Russo-Finland. Not far from it is the Machinery Hall, and in close contiguity are mining exhibits, forest exhibits, electric works and numerous private pavilions illustrating the industrial works of the country.

PROFESSOR RAPHAEL MELDOLA writes to the London *Times* regarding the case of death from an inflammable hair wash which has excited much discussion in Great Britain. "It is, of course, well known to those who are in the habit of dealing with low boiling-point liquids giving off inflammable vapors; such, for ex-

ample, as ether, that the presence of a naked flame, even at a distance of many yards, is attended with great danger. But in the present case Professor Meldola corroborates by personal experience the contention of Lord Kelvin that an electric spark, although in itself feeble, is quite sufficient to ignite an explosive mixture of hydrocarbon vapor and air. Some years ago he was consulted by a manufacturer who had an extensive business in what is called the 'dry cleaning' of wearing apparel. In this process the goods, previously well dried, are immersed in a vessel of benzine, in which they are kept in motion by means of mechanical stirrers. In spite of every precaution to insure the absence of naked flames in the building in which the operation was conducted, fires were constantly occurring, and at one time the process threatened to become a failure on account of this apparently spontaneous inflammability of the hydrocarbon vapor. It was only when the possibility of the generation of electricity and the passage of sparks were suggested that precautions were taken to exclude air from the upper portions of the vessels and that the process became practicable. The experience afforded by this process points most conclusively to the correctness of the electric spark theory of the ignition, and on this ground alone the use of such inflammable hydrocarbons for cleaning the hair—apart from the very doubtful question of their efficacy—should be absolutely condemned."

THE Executive Committee of the International Medical Congress has followed the example of its predecessors at earlier gatherings in publishing descriptions of the medical institutions of the country. The *British Medical Journal* gives an account of one of these, containing a full description of the medical societies of Russia. The oldest Russian medical society was founded in Moscow in the year 1804, and is still in existence. It is attached to the University of Moscow, and is known as the Physico-Medical Society. A year later the Vilna Medical Society was instituted; it also still exists, but owing to the chequered career of the University of Vilna (which was removed to Kief after the Polish rising of 1833) this society has lost something of its former prestige.



The institution of these two societies was almost coincident with the opening of the three Universities of Kharkof, Kazan and Vilna by the Emperor Alexander I. Before his reign there had been but one university in the Empire, that of Moscow. Towards the close of his reign, in 1819, still another university, that of St. Petersburg, was opened; and in the same year the Society of German Practitioners in St. Petersburg was formed. This was followed a year later by the formation of a similar society in Warsaw. A gap of over thirty years, corresponding to the reign of the Emperor Nicholas I., succeeded, during which but one medical society was instituted in Russia. This was the Society of Russian Practitioners in St. Petersburg. From the date of the accession of Alexander II. the number of these societies has rapidly increased. There are now no fewer than 120 in the whole of the Empire, the total capital of which amounts to over \$600,000. The majority of Russian medical societies have libraries attached to them; while some have museums, laboratories and even free dispensaries.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

It is announced that M. Eulogius Georgieff, the founder of the Sofia University, who died recently, bequeathed 20,000,000 fr. to the Bulgarian government for public purposes, including 6,000,000 fr. for a technical school to be established at Sofia.

MR. S. B. BROWNELL has presented Barnard College, New York, with a building for a dormitory to cost \$150,000, which will be erected at once.

THE endowment left by Patrick B. O'Brien, of New Orleans, for establishing chairs of chemistry, of physics and of Roman law in the Catholic University of America will be available this autumn. The Rev. Father W. J. Kirby has been appointed professor of sociology.

A COMMITTEE of the Trustees of the University of Missouri has been appointed to investigate the political views of Professor C. H. Hicks, since 1892 professor of political economy in the University. The report of the committee will probably result in the removal of Professor

Hicks, and it is said that Dr. W. G. Brown, professor of chemistry, is likely to share the same fate.

THE Council of the University of Lyons has devoted the sum of 42,000 fr. to complete the construction of the laboratory of biology of Tamaris, near Toulon, and it is expected that a sum will be appropriated to the support of the laboratory.

THE School of Applied Chemistry, founded last year under the auspices of the faculty of science of the University of Paris, has celebrated its first anniversary. M. Darboux presided, and an address was made by M. Friedel, director of the laboratory.

THE University of Berlin offers holiday courses for teachers of science in the higher schools from the 29th of September to the 9th of October of the present year. Lectures will be given by Drs. van't Hoff, Dames and other leading professors, and excursions and visits of scientific interest have been arranged.

DR. KIHLMAN has been appointed associate professor of botany in the University at Helsingfors. Dr. Theodor Petersen and Dr. Josef Epstein, of the Physical Institute of Vienna, have been appointed to professorships. Mr. Stanley Dunkerley, of the department of applied mechanics, Cambridge, has been appointed professor of applied mechanics at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

##### 'THE PRESENT EVOLUTION OF MAN.'

IN SCIENCE of July 2d, pp. 33-35, Professor T. D. A. Cockerell published a kind and appreciative review of my book 'The Present Evolution of Man,' for which I am more than grateful. He disagreed with me, however, as to several matters, and as on these precisely I have failed to carry conviction to many critics I am forced to believe either that I am wrong or that my explanations have not as yet been adequate nor sufficiently clear. I would fain hope the latter, and therefore am glad to seize the opportunity Professor Cockerell's review affords of making some reply in the pages of SCIENCE.

Professor Cockerell does not entirely agree with my theory of retrogression. Put very